The Southern PATRIOT

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Southern Farms Can Fill Nation's Bread Basket

Agricultural experts were startled by the contention of the Southern AAA Director, Stephen Duggan, that more than 30 million acres of the South are suited to the production of peanuts. This fact, coupled with the innumerable uses for peanuts discovered by the distinguished Negro scientist, Dr, George Washington Carver, portends great changes in the agricultural production of the South. Yet peanuts are but one of the new war crops whose accelerated production opens new avenues of wartime usefulness and peacetime prosperity to Southern farmers.

Peanuts

It must be remembered that the outbreak of war in the Pacific cut off our oilseed imports from the Dutch East Indies. At this very same time, it became evident that demands from our Allies, plus expanded needs at home would absorb greater quantities of edible fats and oils that had ever been available in this country before. The obvious had to be done—begin to use up inventories on hand and exhort all farmers whose land could produce oilseed crops to maximize their production at once. While farmers in the northern states around Minnesota were asked to grow more flaxseed and while Corn Belt farmers were rapidly expanding soybean production, Southern growers were asked to produce more peanuts and more soybeans.

Although 34 million acres are adapted to peanut production, in comparison with the Department of Agriculture's request that five million acres be planted, the pea-

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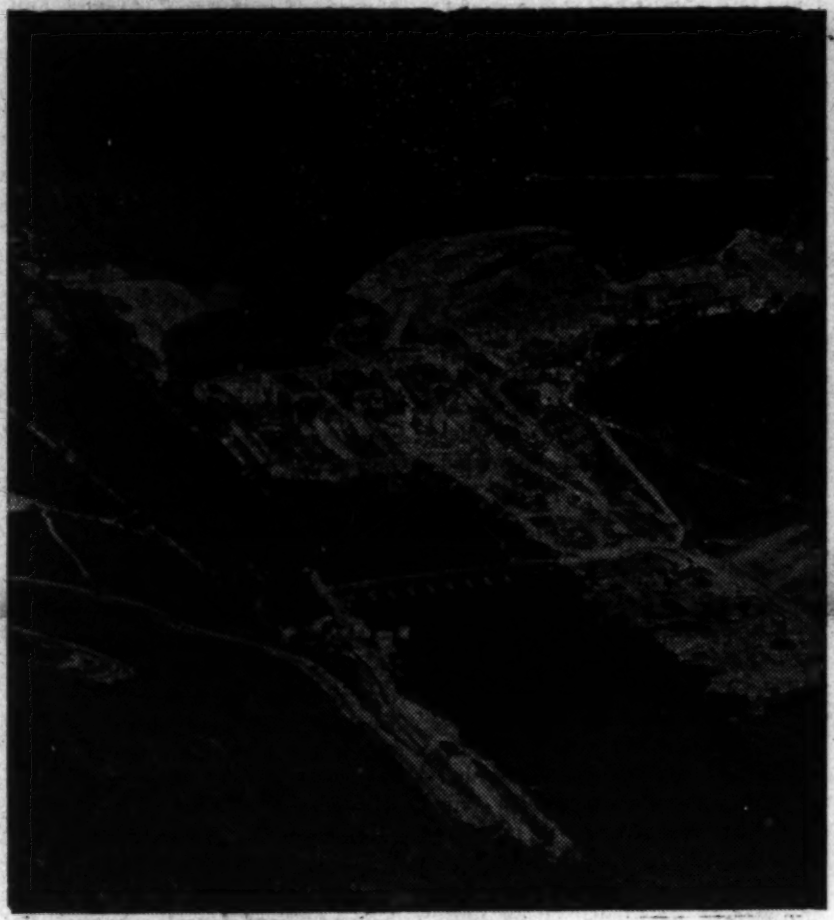

Norris Dam, one of thirteen large dams built by TVA. Rounding out ten years of phenomenal achievement, TVA is now streamlined for war production.

TVA Is the Dynamo for the Arsenal of Democracy

With huge generators now producing at the rate of over nine billion kilowatt hours of power a year, over 75 per cent of which goes into war production, the Tennessee Valley Authority has become the Dynamo for the Arsenal of Democracy.

TVA observed its tenth anniversary on May 18 with workers completely occupied in full-scale war production. TVA's transition from peacetime development to fulltime war action was effortless, since all its previous work had centered around maximum development and use of the region's resources—a vital necessity in a global war. For instance, its dam construction program, designed to capture the tremendous energy of the Tennessee River and its tributaries, came in time to make possible great industrial expansion for war and provided 600 miles of navigable

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TVA In Its Tenth Year Is Streamlined for War

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river channel to relieve over-burdened transportation systems. Likewise, TVA's phosphatic fertilizer plant, around which its soil rehabilitation program centered, turned to the production of elemental phosphorus—a vital munition.

Much of what TVA has accomplished, both for war and peace, and what it has come to represent in contemporary American life, cannot easily be interpreted by statistical tables and summary paragraphs. Precise columns of figures cannot evaluate the practical idea of an integrated regional development, in which all the varied facets of Valley economy are weighed and treated as related parts of a whole. Nor can they measure the impact of the regional development program outside the Valley, both in America and abroad, as perhaps suggesting the approach to the solution of problems of other regions.

Enumeration of the 300-odd contracts and agreements by which TVA maintains contact with Valley states, departments of government, institutions, localities, and people gives an indication of the measure of its identification with the life of the region.

Since its establishment in 1933, TVA, with gathering momentum, has made much progress which can be measured in statistics of material accomplishments. It has built 13 large dams, created 385 miles of nine-foot navigation channel for commerce, provided more than 8-million acre-feet of flood control storage, produced nearly 30 billion kilowatt-hours of electric energy, marked up nearly 100 million dollars in revenues, provided 150 million seedlings for reforestation, manufactured half a million tons of phosphatic fertilizers. It has developed new machines and new processes and has opened the way to use of latent resources of water, soil, forests, and minerals.

TVA's war program embraces:

• **Electric Power**—Power from the great TVA system of hydro and supporting steam plants goes into huge aluminum, chemical, electrometallurgical and munitions plants, the products of which are vital in the war.

• **Munitions**—TVA has rehabilitated and modernized the facilities of the old Muscle Shoals nitrate plant, now produces ammonia and ammonium nitrate for explosives, elemental phosphorus for war purposes, and calcium carbide for use in the manfufacture of synthetic rubber.

• **Housing**—Experience of TVA in providing housing for workers at its construction projects during a peacetime program of eight years enabled it to make a substantial contribution to housing for war workers. TVA demountable prefabricated houses are being copied by other federal agencies in providing housing for war workers.

• **Research**—Years of research into the location and uses of minerals found within the region are being utilized for all-out war production. Studies have been made on magnesium, manganese, nickel, titanium, nitrate and alumina—all vital to war production.

• **Forestry**—Many forest products critically needed for the war program are produced by the 3,200 wood processing plants of the Tennessee Valley. To facilitate the production and use of forest products in the war program, the Authority is conducting studies for the War Production Board for the purpose of obtaining data on monthly and annual lumber production; factors affecting lumber production; the manufacture of aircraft lumber and aircraft plywood. Over 10 million feet of timber will this year be harvested from TVA lands to aid the war program.

• **Navigation**—By construction of its multipurpose projects, TVA has provided a commercially useful inland waterway from the mouth of the Tennessee to Chattanooga, a distance of 464 miles, over which grain, coal, petroleum products, pig iron, military vehicles, and other products are being transported. From 1933 to 1942, the years of TVA's growth, ton-miles of freight carried on the Tennessee River increased five-fold.

• **Agriculture**—TVA's experiments in the use of phosphate fertilizer have demonstrated revolutionary possibilities for increasing food production 30 per cent or more *without* using either more labor or more machinery. [See May PATRIOT for full account.]

Thus, ten years after power interests decried it as "Dangerous," "Communistic," and "Visionary," TVA stands as the Dynamo of the South, turning out electric power without which the Region would be severely handicapped and the war effort grievously imperiled.

TVA has become an integral part of the South, and its monumental accomplishments stand as beacon lights of what the New South can do in the future.

In the meantime, the TVA continues *all-out for war.*

OCD Helps Solve Juvenile Delinquency

Normal life for wartime youngsters must be developed through local civilian defense activities, in the opinion of a Shreveport juvenile court judge.

"There is no limit to the possibilities of civilian defense as a means of attacking juvenile delinquency at the root of the problem," he said. "Local defense councils are in a position to move swiftly to meet needs arising every day in the handling of recreation and health problems. Civilian defense authorities must accept the task of organizing the community to meet the impact of this total struggle for survival."

TRENDS—

The Nashville *Trades and Labor News* in a recent issue points out that union members have spent longer adrift on the ocean than Eddie Rickenbacker, current labor-baiting darling of the reactionaries.

Rickenbacker spent 21 days on a rubber raft in the Pacific Ocean and has been talking ever since; but Basil Izzi, U. S. sailor and formerly a textile union member, survived 83 days—almost four times as long!—on a raft. And while Rickenbacker came back to deliver tirade after tirade against organized labor, Brother Izzi went on a morale-building tour of U. S. war plants.

If being adrift on a raft 21 days makes one an authority on labor, as Rickenbacker apparently believes, then Chinese seamen Poon Lin should be our next Secretary of Labor—he floated 132 days!

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The Ku Klux Klan tried to ride again earlier in the year in Orlando, Fla., but apparently they found it tough sledding. After the CIO and AFL organizers went in to organize the Fosgate Citrus plant, the KKK issued a call, through an advertisement in the *Orlando Morning Sentinel*, for 4,000 Klansmen. "There is work to do," the ad bluntly concluded.

The awkward attempts at intimidation failed to deter the workers. Final result: CIO's UCAPAWA, 146 votes; AFL, 119; and ONLY NINE FOR NO UNION!

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Miss Hilda Butler was married on the assembly line in an Atlanta shellmaking plant, after she refused to be an absentee, even for an hour. The understanding groom was W. H. Crawford, an official of the United Steelworkers of America, CIO.

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In one of the most significant decisions in recent years, the Supreme Court last month reversed its famous Gobitis decision of June, 1940, and ruled that the West Virginia Board of Education could not compel flag-saluting in the schools.

"If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation," the majority decision read, *"it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."*

At the same time the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a Mississippi war-time law passed in 1942 prohibiting any oral statement or the distribution of literature which tends "to create an attitude of stubborn refusal to salute, honor, or respect the flag." The decision voids a similar Louisiana statute.

The hare-raising story of the month comes out of Texas: A union-sponsored plan to beat the meat shortage has spread throughout the Gulf Coast community of Ingleside, Texas, and inventory time found Local 316, Oil Workers International Union, CIO, with a stock of 835 rabbits.

The number of rabbits eaten so far has already reached the thousands.

Breeding does can be obtained from almost any rabbit breeder. A hutch to keep your foundation stock is easy to build. The rest—well, you just leave that to nature.

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The Louisiana State Federation of Labor endorsed President Roosevelt for a fourth term at its 31st annual convention held earlier in Shreveport. The resolution passed without a dissenting vote.

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A review of the now-famous Texas "white primary" case, in which Lonnie Smith, a Negro voter, claimed denial of his right to vote by exclusion from the Democratic Primary in 1940, was granted by the Supreme Court on June 7.

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Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, the nation's largest farmer-owned grain marketing cooperative, has just paid off a million dollars on a $1,350,000 debt contracted with the Central Bank of Cooperatives to build the three elevators in Wisconsin and Montana.

Final installment on the debt is expected to be made next year—thus retiring the debt nine years before it is due!

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Month to month reports to the U. S. Employment Service show a steady increase in the number and proportion of Negroes employed.

Negroes comprised 5.8 per cent of the 12 million workers employed in establishments reporting to the U. S. Employment Service in July, 1942. By March, 1943, the figure had risen to 6.7 per cent.

USES cites Hampton Roads, Va., Mobile, Ala., Baltimore, and Los Angeles as having made considerable progress in Negro employment.

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The passage of an ordinance in Los Angeles providing 30-day jail terms for youths found wearing zoot suits ranks in brilliance with the bill introduced in a Southern legislature some years ago, during a time of drought, banning the singing of It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo' *for the duration.*

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Cost of living in selected Southern cities has increased proportionately with increases all over the nation, according to the latest release from the Department of Labor.

From the time of the entry of the United States into the war to May 15, 1943, cost of living in Birmingham increased 23.3 per cent, St. Louis 22.9 per cent, and Houston 21.6 per cent.

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A new "Congression Group for the Protection of the Consumer" has been organized which will fight for real price control and for the rollback of food costs. By June 19 twenty Congressmen had joined the group—but not one of them was from a Southern state.

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The AFL reports as of last March a Southern membership jump since 1933 from 300,000 to 1,700,000. At the end of April Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reported total AFL paid membership of 6,226,950, the all-time high.

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The *American Federationist*, official magazine of the AFL, has rapidly improved until it stands now as one of the finest publications in the labor field. Among the contributors to the June issue were Senator Robert F. Wagner, Dr. Frank P. Graham, Sumner Welles, and Norwegian Trade Union secretary, Haakon Lie. *American Federationist* is on sale at news stands at 20 cents a copy, $2.00 a year by subscription.

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Experienced trade unionists make good soldiers "because they understand what they are fighting for, show initiative and are trained to work with other men as a unit," Lt. Col. Evans Fordyce Carlson, leading guerrilla warfare expert of the U. S. Marine Corps, stated in an interview with Allied Labor News.

"Soldiers who think intelligently about economic and social problems are quicker to grasp new ideas and more readily come up to the standard of modern military requirements," Lt. Col. Carlson said.

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Organized labor will at the first opportunity test the legality of anti-labor legislation enacted in six states, including Texas and Arkansas. Labor lawyers are convinced of the unconstitutionality of the measures.

Meanwhile Florida and Alabama have just joined the whirl with passage of similar anti-labor laws.

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Fifty delegates, representing some 84 union American Legion posts throughout the country, meeting in Detroit in a two-day pre-convention conference assailed the "deliberate attempt on the part of anti-labor forces to attack the excellent record of organized labor in this war" and "condemned" those who by work or deed attempt to create dissension between the armed forces and the people at home."

Continuation of the New Deal Seen as Best Hope for the New South

The South is more a real and integral part of the United States today than at any other time since the administrations of Polk and Taylor, the last Presidents elected from the South, Dr. H. Clarence Nixon, lecturer in the social sciences at Vanderbilt University, declares in the leading article in the summer issue of the *Virginia Quarterly Review.*

Titled "The New Deal and the South," the article concludes that in a continuation of the New Deal lies the best hope for the future of the South.

However, Dr. Nixon points out, "No New Deal or other Washington government alone can realize upon that enlarged opportunity for the region. The South or Southerners have some responsibility for action. The region must furnish its own leadership and statesmanship."

Among the striking points brought out in the article are:

• While labor union membership in America was increasing by some 200 per cent in the New Deal period, the gain for organized labor in the South was nearer 1000 per cent.

• In the past two years the South has approximately doubled its dollar proportion of the nation's war contracts.

• Freight rate revision on the scale contemplated is a progressive step that is nothing less than national social planning. Any planning for abundance must be based on efficient transportation and an equitable rate system. For such a step the New Deal offers the best bet.

• The New Deal has brought about an unprecedented soil saving in the South, where more land has been wasted by man than in all the rest of the country. Erosion control, terracing, and contour-plowing have come into vogue in the hills and slopes of Dixie as never before.

• The TVA will play a significant role in the post-war development of the South. It will continue its emphasis on the diversified production of quality goods in industry, on the processing of foods from an improved agriculture, and on developing the scenic resources of the region, which already has a tourist crop that in value suggests rivalry with cotton. It will continue its varied program of physical and human conservation.

Dr. Nixon is the author of *Forty Acres and Steel Mules* (1938) and *Possum Trot* (1941). He served as the first secretary of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Win-the-War Creed for American Workers

A hasty, chaotic wildcat strike occurred in the Acme Backing Corp., Brooklyn, N. Y., on June 10, stopping production of war materials. It was caused by the promotion of a Negro employee to a semi-skilled job.

Overnight the men thought it over, decided they had acted too hastily, had made a mistake. They then went back on the job with this unanimously adopted statement;

"We, the employes of the Acme Backing Corp., conscious of the accusations made against us as being guilty of racial prejudice, hereby state:

"That we are opposed to any sign of such prejudice, particularly against Negro fellow-Americans;

"That as a group we believe in President Roosevelt's program of Fair Employment Practice and that we support it;

"That we regret the actions of an insignificant minority which raised this un-American issue;

"That we pledge ourselves wholeheartedly to wipe out any prejudice shown by this small minority;

"And that as liberty-loving Americans we pledge ourselves 100 per cent to the democratic principles of fair play for which our country stands."

Here is a true win-the-war creed for American workers.

Fullbright Resolution Reflects Popular Demand for Post-War World Order

A simple, concise, 50-word resolution, introduced in mid-June by Arkansas's freshman Congressman, James William Fullbright, appears well on its way to making Congressional history. For the first time global-minded Congressmen of varying political and economic beliefs were drawn together —and, as *Time* remarked, "the world could see how fast has been the growth of sentiment in the U. S. for postwar world cooperation."

The resolution reads: *Resolved by the House of Representatives* [the Senate concurring] *that the Congress hereby expresses itself as favoring the creation of appropriate international machinery with power adequate to establish and maintain a just and lasting peace among the nations of the world, and as favoring participation by the United States therein.*

In the House Foreign Affairs Committee (14 Democrats, 11 Republicans), the resolution won unanimous approval. The House will vote on it in September, doubtless on the same nonpartisan basis.

The Fulbright resolution represents a long stride down the road opened by the Senate's Ball-Burton-Hatch-Hill resolution to enforce the peace. [See April PATRIOT.]

Ninety-three per cent of the 250 employees of the Virginia Oak Tannery, at Luray, Va., who participated in a recent NLRB election voted for the first time in their lives—and not because they were too young either.

Virginia's cumulative poll tax had effectively disfranchised the rest.

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Divided We Stand

Quite apart from questions of ethics, the recent wave of race riots in America are a definite threat to the national security. The disastrous consequences of continued rioting can hardly be overemphasized.

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In the first place, whether the riots in Detroit, Mobile, Los Angeles, Beaumont, and elsewhere, were directly instigated by the Axis is of little importance. The important thing is that they did work to the advantage of our Fascist enemies, and they follow the familiar pattern of Divide-and-Conquer, the basis of Nazi fifth column strategy everywhere. The effect is the same regardless of who is the instigator. In Beaumont, a labor shortage area, thousands of Negroes left their vital shipyard jobs in terror, streaming from the city. In Detroit, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler reported Negro absentees reached 50 to 75 per-cent on the day following the outbreak of violence. It is significant, and ominous, that all the outbreaks have occurred in vital war production centers. It is true that no direct evidence exists proving that the riots were Axis-inspired—but Goebbels himself could not have selected more important centers for the outbreaks. The 10 per cent of our soldiers who are Negro, and the many whites who offer their lives to fight against fascist bigotry, can hardly give their full efforts while fearing for the safety of loved ones at home and disillusioned by the obvious hypocrisy.

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In the second place, the international consequences are frightening. Axis shortwave broadcasts, beamed to Asia, Africa and South America, send complete accounts of American race riots. Whites must never forget that while they are in substantial majority in the United States, as far as the world as a whole is concerned the colored race outnumbers them almost four-to-one. Lin Yutang has warned of the danger of a third world war along racial lines—and he points out quite correctly that it can be provoked only by the whites, for they alone have assumed the position of arrogance and superiority. Quite aside from ethics here too, it is sheer suicide to divide the world into racial camps. But that is the certain effect of American race riots.

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It is clear then that American must awake to the dangers of their actions. Thousands of American soldiers will unnecessarily lose their lives because the peoples of Burma, Malaya and India will have lost faith in the cause of the United Nations—and we shall have to conquer back inch-by-inch vast territory fighting not only against the Japanese, but also against the natives. Millions of man hours which could speed the day of victory will be lost through absenteeism caused by fear of violence and through non-utilization caused by discrimination.

Clearly the President must take the lead in uniting Americans on the home front against the forces which would divide us in civil war, against the Negro-haters, anti-semites and others who preach hate against minority groups to the glee of Dr. Goebbels. Race prejudice, a peacetime luxury, can be a wartime tragedy. Leadership is needed in fighting fascism on the home front.

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Southern Farms Can Fill Nation's Food Basket

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nut campaign fell one-third short of war goals last year. In 1943, all acreage allotments and all penalties for overplanting have been removed. Moreover, the Government support price of about $137 per ton will mean that peanuts will yield a better average income per acre than cotton in most areas. As a result, it is hoped that Southern farmers will now step up their production at least enough to meet the Government's modest request for 5.5 million acres—every bit of it essential for the war effort.

Potatoes

Sweet potatoes are another old Southern crop whose importance has been enhanced by war demands and by Dr. Carver's research. A large part of the crop has hitherto been used for livestock feed, but today we need its great nutritive value for human consumption. It is estimated that sweet potato production could be increased by almost 100 percent.

Feed

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced war goals calling for 27 percent more pork and 28 percent more poultry in 1943 than in 1942. We also need more beef and more dairy products. All of these demands require greater production of feed. While the South has generally imported feed in order to carry on its meat production, such reliance on outside sources must now be reduced, as every region is seeking to raise its meat production to a peak, and as transportation facilities are now jammed. Texas and Oklahoma can further raise their output of grain sorghums by at least 50 percent and their wheat production by one-fifth. The production of oats can be increased heavily all through the Cotton Belt, while substantial additions can be made to the present acreages of corn, hay and barley in many areas of the South.

Hogs and Cattle

Last year, the South raised its hog production by 25 percent. If feed production is sufficiently expanded, a further 25 percent increase could well be achieved during 1943. The Southern contribution to the nation's meat supply could be further augmented by the 10 percent increase in beef output which experts estimate to be feasible.

Eggs and Chickens

Poultry production goals for 1943 are 28 percent above the high levels reached in 1942, and the goal for egg production has been raised 8 percent over last year. Here again, the flexibility in entering poultry production should make it possible for the South's millions of farm enterprises to exceed the expectations of the Department of Agriculture that a 15 percent increase will be recorded both in chicken and in egg production. It will certainly be necessary for poultry output to compensate as much as possible for the sharply reduced supplies of pork and beef that will probably remain for domestic consumption after the needs of our fighting Allies and those of our own Armed Forces are met.

Milk

New war industries and Army camps in the South have created a demand for millions of gallons of fresh milk. Production only increased by three percent in the South last year, but the Department of Agriculture believes that a 15 percent increase is possible if the Southern dairy farmer can obtain sufficient feed, including protein supplements.

These are only a few of the crops which the South can grow for the Nation at war. Vegetables, soybeans, corn, dry beans, fruit and many other products are needed. Some of the increase can be achieved by taking up the slack—using land more intensively and bringing idle land into cultivation. Some of the increase can only be achieved by substituting war crops for old crops. Cotton and tobacco acreage would have to be cut—probably by 15 or 20 percent. Hogs would be raised in some areas instead of sheep and lambs. Certain of the less productive grain crops would have to be substituted for others. In general, Southern farming would cover a wider range of crops—a change which has long been recommended by many experts. Furthermore, these crops are not needed only for war. If we are to move forward towards a healthier, better nourished Nation afterwards, we will continue to need all the milk, meat, grains and feeds that we can grow.

[See special Food for Freedom issue of THE PATRIOT, May.]

Union Men Help Solve Farm Labor Shortage

Members of Local 62, United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers of America (CIO), at Mt. Vernon, Ind., have been spending four hours daily working on farms after their regular work-day has ended.

Union members perform all kinds of work—ploughing, planting, tractoring—helping the farmers meet the great problems created by the recent floods on the Ohio and Wabash rivers.

Workers at the Mt. Vernon Milling and the Fuhrer Ford Milling file their names with the County Agent. Farmers tell the County Agent the day before how many men are neded and the pay. This information is turned over to the Local Union President who contacts the men for the job. Pay averages 50c an hour and one meal.

UCAPAWA since its beginning has been a consistent advocate of close farmer-labor solidarity behind win-the-war policies.

Youth Publications Support Labor and the Anti-Poll Tax Bill

From out of the South come some of the best publications issued in the student field. While it is true that on the average Southern college publications are not the equal of those published in other sections, there are notable exceptions. Southern college papers in general show less disposition to discuss the significant developments of the time, devoting their columns almost entirely to superficial campus news. This is of course but journalistic indication of a basic weakness in Southern education.

It is the exceptions which interest us, however, for they give visions of what the most intelligent and progressive of Southern youth are thinking, and give hope of competent leadership for the New South.

Best of the Southern college publications is the *Daily Texan*, published at the University of Texas, at Austin. A full-sized daily newspaper, carrying INS news coverage, it compares favorably with any college paper published in the country. A glance through its editorials indicates the power and clarity of its voice.

"They [Senators who opposed the anti-poll tax bill] say they opposed it because such legislation should rest in the hands of the several states rather than in the national Senate. What a coincidence it is that just about the only senators who became suddenly concerned about "states-rights" are the senators from those states which deny the voting privilege to the lower economic groups by the use of the white primary and a restrictive poll tax!"

The *Daily Texan* heartily endorsed the River Oaks and Preston Down housing projects in neaby Houston. "But," it wrote, "why stop with River Oaks and Preston Down? Why not extend this privilege—this source of incentive—to the union laborers . . . to all farmers and farm laborers . . . even to the most unfortunate migratory laborer."

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The nation's best student religious publication is published in Nashville, Tennessee, edited by Harold Ehrensperger. It is *motive*, the magazine of the Methodist student movement. Far ahead of anything else in the field, it is to the youth field what the *Christian Century* is in the Protestant adult, and *Commonweal* in the Catholic.

A recent issue was devoted to the theme, "What Is Man?" Included under the personal and social aspects of man is "Religion and Labor: For Status and Rights."

"'What is man?' is answered differently in a democracy than in a dictatorship. We believe every man has a right to participate in the decisions that affect his welfare," the article in *motive* continues. "Moved by this faith working men have increasingly sought means for participating in the decisions determining the conditions under which they work."

After tracing the history of the AFL and the CIO, the article concludes: "This is the story of American labor. It has its sordid chapters, for neither workers nor employers have been constant saints. It also has its thrilling moments, for it records the constant climb by the spirit of man from confining circumstances to fuller freedom and larger democracy."—H.K.

One of the first day-care centers for the children of working mothers in the South is operating full speed in Florence, Ala.

Open from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m., the nursery school is caring for 60 youngsters whose mothers would otherwise be unable to take jobs replacing men needed for more vital assignments.

Tennessee Supreme Court Action Underscores Need for Federal Poll Tax Bill

An Independence Day gift from the Supreme Court of Tennessee was a 3-2 decision declaring the poll tax repeal bill unconstitutional..

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After having failed in 1941, a united front of all labor and liberal groups had forced the 1943 legislature to bring about repeal of the state's $1.00 poll tax assessment as a prerequisite for voting.

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The majority decision of the court held that the provisions of the 1870 Constitution that "All male citizens of this state . . . shall be liable to a poll tax of not less than 50 cents, nor more than one dollar per annum" made the tax mandatory.

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Relief from this obnoxious tax upon the right to vote can now be secured only by Constitutional amendment which would require the action of two sessions of the legislature and a state-wide referendum, involving six years.

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The overwhelming majority of the people of the state want this tax repealed, witness the action of 33 counties in repealing local poll tax requirements as a condition of voting. Nevertheless, the will of the people has been effectively flouted, leaving the machine politicians free to retain their control in this boss-ridden state.

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A plain lesson from the Tennessee experience is the need for redoubling activity looking toward passage of H. R. 7, which would abolish the poll tax as a condition of voting in Federal elections. The bill passed the House on May 25 by a vote of 265-110 and is now in the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee.